

Psalms 18:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He bowed the heavens also, and came down: and darkness was under his feet.

Analysis

God 'bowed the heavens and came down' with thick darkness under His feet. The Hebrew 'natah' (bowed/stretched) suggests pulling heaven down to earth. The 'araphel' (thick darkness) recalls Sinai's thick cloud (Exodus 20:21). This portrays God bridging infinite distance to rescue His servant. It anticipates the Incarnation—God descending to rescue humanity. Reformed theology sees God's transcendence and immanence held together.

Historical Context

Drawing on Israel's foundational memory of Sinai where God descended in cloud and darkness to meet Moses and give the covenant.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does God's willingness to 'come down' inform your view of prayer?
2. What does the Incarnation reveal about God's commitment to rescue?

Interlinear Text

וַיִּט	שָׁמַיִם	וַיָּרֵד	וְעֲרָפָה לַחֹתָ	
He bowed	the heavens	also and came down	and darkness	H8478
H5186	H8064	H3381	H6205	

בְּגִלְיוֹ:	
was under his feet	
H7272	

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 33:26 (Parallel theme): There is none like unto the God of Jeshurun, who rideth upon the heaven in thy help, and in his excellency on the sky.